

What is claimed is:

1. A lighting system for illuminating artwork, including:
a housing;

5 a lamp mounted within the housing and including a halogen bulb and a reflector, said reflector having a dichroic coating;

a linear spread lens positioned in front of the lamp and having an etched first portion and lighter etched second portion of a first surface; and

10 a door associated with the housing directing the light emitted by the lighting system through the linear spread lens.

2. A lighting system for illuminating artwork as set forth in claim 1, wherein the linear spread lens is provided with an ultraviolet filter coating.

15 3. A lighting system for illuminating artwork as set forth in claim 2, wherein the ultraviolet filter coating filters at least 95% of ultraviolet light.

4. A lighting system for illuminating artwork as set forth in claim 1, wherein the linear spread lens is provided with a color-adjusting tint.

20

5. A lighting system for illuminating artwork as set forth in claim 1, wherein the ratio of the etched first portion to the lighter etched second portion is approximately 50/50.

25

6. A lighting system for illuminating artwork as set forth in claim 1, wherein the ratio of the etched first portion to the lighter etched second portion is in the range of from about 75/25 to 25/75.

7. A lighting system for illuminating artwork as set forth in claim 1,
wherein the linear spread lens is mounted on the door.

8. A lighting system for illuminating artwork as set forth in claim 7,
5 wherein the door is connected in a laterally slideable manner relative to the housing.

9. A lighting system for illuminating artwork as set forth in claim 8, further
including a demarcation line between the etched first portion and the lighter etched
second portion of the linear spread lens and wherein a position of the demarcation line
10 relative to the lamp is adjusted by the slideable connection between the door and the
housing.

10. A lighting system for illuminating artwork as set forth in claim 1,
wherein the linear spread lens is provided with a plurality of rounded ridges on a
15 second surface facing away from the lamp.

11. An optical conversion system for an artwork light having a halogen light
source, including:

a reflector having a dichroic coating surrounding the halogen light source; and

20 a linear spread lens positioned in front of the halogen light source, said linear
spread lens having:

an ultraviolet filter coating;

a color-adjusting tint;

an etched first portion of a first surface; and

25 a lighter etched second portion of the first surface.

12. An optical conversion system for an artwork light as set forth in claim
11, wherein the ratio of the etched first portion to the lighter etched second portion is
approximately 50/50.

13. An optical conversion system for illuminating artwork as set forth in claim 11, wherein the ratio of the etched first portion to the lighter etched second portion is in the range of from about 75/25 to 25/75.

5

14. An optical conversion system for illuminating artwork as set forth in claim 11, further including a demarcation line between the etched first portion and the lighter etched second portion of the lens and wherein a position of the demarcation line relative to the halogen light source is adjustable.

10

15. A method of lighting both the top and bottom of an artwork, including the steps of:

emitting a beam of light from a halogen bulb;

filtering radiant heat from the beam of light through a reflector surrounding the

15 halogen bulb and having a dichroic coating;

laterally diffusing the beam through a linear spread lens positioned in front of the lamp;

vertically diffusing the beam through an etched first portion and lighter etched second portion of said lens; and

20 adjusting the color of the beam through a tinted coating on the lens.

16. A method of lighting artwork as set forth in claim 15, further including the step of adjusting a position of the first and second portions of the linear spread lens relative to the halogen bulb depending on a height of the artwork.

25

17. A method of optically correcting a beam of light emitted by a halogen light source for illumination of artwork, including the steps of:

filtering radiant heat from the beam of light through a reflector surrounding the halogen bulb having a dichroic coating;

5 laterally diffusing the beam through a linear spread lens positioned in front of the lamp;

vertically diffusing the beam through an etched first portion and lighter etched second portion of said lens; and

adjusting the color of the beam through a tinted coating on the lens.

10

18. A method of optically correcting a beam of light emitted by a halogen light source as set forth in claim 17, further including the step of adjusting a position of the first and second portions of the linear spread lens relative to the halogen bulb depending on a height of the artwork.

15